

## **VConnecta wins Local Enterprise Office South Cork Award for Cork County in 2018**

Vconnecta Ltd, trading as Ecanvasser, have been nominated as the National Enterprise Awards Nominee for Cork County Councils Local Enterprise Office South Cork 2018. The County prize fund of €10k, shared between 2 County finalists, €5k of this fund went to Brendan Finucane of Ecanvasser based in South Ring Business Park, who will now represent Local Enterprise Office South Cork at the National Enterprise Awards, which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ecanvasser is a software for political campaigns. It encompasses voter targeting, outreach and a full CRM database. This drives smarter campaigning with powerful analytics to understand your voters and your campaign team better. Fully mobile canvassing apps are available for all your campaign teams. Leader by Ecanvasser provides unprecedented digital infrastructure for political organizations that span regional or national areas. Brendan's interest in political campaigning was the foundation of Ecanvasser. This idea was validated by research conducted as part of Brendan's Business Information Systems degree in University College Cork.

Brendan has grown the company from a college project to software systems that is already supporting a global customer base across five continents.

Ecanvasser was designed to make it easy for anybody to run for public office. The software system and mobile apps mimic what is done by the best political campaigns. An easy to use product married to a low price point means anyone interested in taking a more active role in their community will not be held back

by budget or resource constraints. In this way, the aim is to strengthen the democratic process and encourage wider involvement in it.

Other winners included Sam & Maudeline Black of Blacks Brewery located in Kinsale, who is Cork County Council / LEO Cork North & West Nominee for NEA 2018.

Judging is taking place in April and both Ecanvasser and Blacks Brewery will be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the €40,000 prize fund. The Mansion House in Dublin is the venue for awards ceremony in May and categories this year include 'Best Export Business,' 'Best Start Up Business' and 'Innovation,' in addition to eight regional awards.

We wish both Brendan of Ecanvasser and Sam & Maudeline of Blacks Brewery the very best of luck at the National Final in Dublin this May.

**ENDS**

### **National Enterprise Awards 2018**

#### **Award Categories and Prize Fund**

The 2018 National Enterprise Awards take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> in the Mansion House in Dublin and are organised by the Local Enterprise Offices

- Overall Winner, National Enterprise Awards 2017 (Cash Prize for business: €10,000)
- Best Export Business (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)
- Best Start Up Business (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)
- Innovation Award (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)
- Eight Regional Winners (Cash Prize for business: €2,000 each)
  - **Regions:**

- *Dublin City, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown and South Dublin*
- *Kildare, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath*
- *Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny*
- *Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan*
- *Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Longford*
- *Galway, Mayo and Roscommon*
- *Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Tipperary*
- *Cork City, South Cork, Cork North & West and Waterford*